

# EXHIBIT A

THE HONORABLE JOHN H. CHUN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

AMAZON.COM, INC., a corporation,

Defendant.

CASE NO.: 2:23-cv-01495-JHC

**[PROPOSED] ORDER  
REGARDING DISCOVERY OF  
ELECTRONICALLY STORED  
INFORMATION**

Plaintiffs Federal Trade Commission and the states and territories of New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin, acting by and through their respective Attorneys General (“Plaintiff States,” and together with the Federal Trade Commission, “Plaintiffs”) hereby petition the Court to enter the following provisions regarding discovery of electronically stored information (“ESI”) in this matter:

**A. General Principles**

1. An attorney’s zealous representation of a client is not compromised by conducting discovery in a cooperative manner. The failure of counsel or the Parties to litigation to cooperate

1 in facilitating and reasonably limiting discovery requests and responses raises litigation costs and  
2 contributes to the risk of sanctions.

3 2. As provided in LCR 26(f), the proportionality standard set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P.  
4 26(b)(1) must be applied in each case when formulating a discovery plan. To further the  
5 application of the proportionality standard in discovery, requests for production of ESI and related  
6 responses should be reasonably targeted, clear, and as specific as possible.

7 **B. ESI Disclosures**

8 Within 10 days after written responses to discovery requests made under Fed. R. Civ. P.  
9 34 are served, but no earlier than 14 days after entry of this Order, the responding party shall  
10 disclose:

11 1. Custodians. An initial list of proposed custodians within its organization (past or  
12 present) likely to possess responsive ESI, as well as the potential custodians' job titles, tenure,  
13 and a brief summary of their primary responsibilities. The requesting party may identify any  
14 additional custodians it believes should be included. The parties will meet and confer about any  
15 disputed custodians promptly and in good faith.

16 2. Non-custodial Data Sources. A list of non-custodial data sources (e.g., shared  
17 drives, servers), if any, likely to contain discoverable ESI.

18 3. Third-Party Data Sources. A list of third-party data sources, if any, likely to  
19 contain discoverable ESI (e.g., third-party email providers, mobile device providers, cloud  
20 storage) and, for each such source, the extent to which a party is (or is not) able to preserve  
21 information stored in the third-party data source.

22 4. Inaccessible Data. A list of data sources, if any, likely to contain discoverable  
23 ESI (by type, date, custodian, electronic system or other criteria sufficient to specifically  
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1 identify the data source) that a party asserts is not reasonably accessible under Fed. R. Civ. P.  
 2 26(b)(2)(B).

3 5. Foreign data privacy laws. Nothing in this Order is intended to prevent any Party  
 4 from complying with the requirements of a foreign country's data privacy laws, e.g., the European  
 5 Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679. The Parties agree to meet  
 6 and confer before including custodians or data sources subject to such laws in any ESI or other  
 7 discovery request.

### 8 **C. ESI Discovery Procedures**

9 1. On-site inspection of electronic media. Such an inspection shall not be required  
 10 absent a demonstration by the requesting party of specific need and good cause or by agreement  
 11 of the Parties.

12 2. Search methodology. The Parties shall timely confer to attempt to reach agreement  
 13 on appropriate search terms and queries, file type and date restrictions, data sources (including  
 14 custodians), and other appropriate computer- or technology-aided methodologies.

15 a. The producing party shall disclose the data sources (including custodians),  
 16 search terms and queries, any file type and date restrictions, and its intent to use technology-  
 17 assisted review, if applicable. The producing party shall provide unique hit counts for each search  
 18 query, if applicable.

19 b. Where a producing party chooses to use search terms to identify potentially  
 20 responsive documents, the party shall exercise reasonable due diligence in investigating and  
 21 analyzing its data in providing its proposed list of search terms. Examples of such due diligence  
 22 may include but are not limited to: identification of commonly misspelled words appearing on  
 23 responsive documents or electronically stored information; identifying idiosyncratic language and  
 24

1 terms of art (e.g., acronyms, nicknames, codenames, project names) utilized by a party in  
2 responsive documents and by interviewing relevant custodians about the same; utilizing quality  
3 control metrics; and using an iterative search approach to identify the terms most likely to locate  
4 responsive documents.

5 c. After disclosure, the Parties will engage in a meet and confer process  
6 regarding the producing party's search methodology and, if applicable, additional terms sought by  
7 the non-producing party. The Parties may propose modifications to the search terms proposed by  
8 any Party, and the Parties shall continue to cooperate in revising the appropriateness of the search  
9 methodology.

10 d. The following provisions apply to search terms / queries of the requesting  
11 party. Focused terms and queries generally should be employed; broad terms or queries, such as  
12 product and company names, generally should be avoided. A conjunctive combination of multiple  
13 words or phrases (e.g., "computer" and "system") narrows the search and shall count as a single  
14 search term. A disjunctive combination of multiple words or phrases (e.g., "computer" or  
15 "system") broadens the search, and thus each word or phrase shall count as a separate search term  
16 unless they are variants of the same word. The producing party may identify each search term or  
17 query returning overbroad results demonstrating the overbroad results and a counter proposal  
18 correcting the overbroad search or query.

19 e. To the extent that the Parties cannot agree on certain search terms  
20 ("Disputed Terms"), the Parties will meet and confer to resolve such disputes. If the producing  
21 party objects to any search term on the basis of burden it shall produce de-duplicated hit reports  
22 for that Disputed Term no later than 10 days after a request by a requesting party. Those hit reports  
23 shall include the following:

1. the total number of documents being searched with the Disputed Terms;
2. the aggregate hits for each of the Disputed Terms (the number of documents returned by a search term);
3. the number of unique hits for each of the Disputed Terms (the number of documents which contain a particular search term, but no other search terms);
4. if the producing party has a counter-proposal for the Disputed Terms, the difference in the number of unique hits between the Parties' proposals (the number of unique hits captured by the requesting party's proposal but not captured by the producing party's proposal);
5. if the producing party contends that the Disputed Terms are capturing irrelevant documents, the nature and type of such documents.

f. If a party seeks to use technology assisted review ("TAR") during its search methodology, it shall notify the other Parties in the litigation of its intent to do so. At that time, the responding party shall provide a description of its proposed TAR methodology. Following this notification, the Parties will meet and confer regarding the TAR methodology.

3. Format.<sup>1</sup> ESI will be produced in the formats set out in Appendix A to this Order. If particular ESI warrants a different format or method of production, the Parties may request to

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<sup>1</sup> Documents that were produced prior to the date of this Order that were not produced in the first instance in this litigation, *i.e.*, documents first produced in the Plaintiffs' investigation or in

1 produce that ESI in an alternative format or method of production than set out in Appendix A. In  
 2 such case the Parties agree to cooperate in good faith to arrange for a mutually acceptable  
 3 production format.

4 a. ESI will be produced to the requesting party with searchable text, in the  
 5 format described in Appendix A.

6 b. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, or required by a reasonable  
 7 redaction process, files that are not easily converted to image format, such as spreadsheets,  
 8 databases, and drawing files, will be produced in native format with extracted text and metadata.  
 9 Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, for all other files, native files shall be produced upon  
 10 reasonable request within 14 days.

11 c. Each document image file shall be named with a unique number (Bates  
 12 Number). Bates numbers should not be more than thirty characters long or contain spaces.

13 d. If a document is more than one page, the unitization of the document and  
 14 any attachments and/or affixed notes shall be maintained as they existed in the original document.

15 e. The Parties shall produce their information in the following format: single-  
 16 page images and associated multi-page text files containing extracted text or with appropriate

17  
 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
 19 related cases, and documents produced in response to requests for production in this litigation  
 20 that call for production of documents made in other matters, shall be produced in the format of  
 21 document productions in those other matters, provided that those re-productions are in a  
 22 reasonably useful format and provided that the producing party informs all other Parties, prior to  
 23 or at the time of production, that the production will be in a nonconforming format. The Parties  
 24 reserve the right to object to a nonconforming format and to make reasonable requests for the  
 production of such documents in a conforming format to the extent that such reproduction does  
 not impose an undue burden on the producing party. The Parties agree that, in general, the  
 productions by Amazon in the Plaintiffs' investigation were made pursuant to the respective  
 Parties' agreements at the time and shall not be reproduced in different formats in this litigation.  
 If Plaintiffs make reasonable requests for the production of such documents in a conforming  
 format, the Parties agree to meet and confer.

1 software load files containing all information required by the litigation support system used by the  
2 receiving party.

3 f. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, the full text of each electronic  
4 document shall be extracted (“Extracted Text”) and produced in a text file. The Extracted Text  
5 shall be provided in searchable ASCII text format (or Unicode text format if the text is in a foreign  
6 language) and shall be named with a unique Bates Number (*e.g.*, the unique Bates Number of the  
7 first page of the corresponding production version of the document followed by its file extension).

8 4. De-duplication. The Parties may de-duplicate their ESI production across  
9 custodial and non-custodial data sources after disclosure to the requesting party, and the duplicate  
10 custodian information removed during the de-duplication process shall be tracked in a  
11 duplicate/other custodian field in the database load file.

12 5. Email Threading. Subject to Paragraph E(4) below, the Parties may use analytics  
13 technology to identify email threads and need only produce the unique most inclusive copy and  
14 related family members and may exclude lesser inclusive copies, except if the lesser inclusive  
15 copies include unique family members, in which case the lesser inclusive copies and related  
16 family members shall also be produced. Upon reasonable request, the producing party will  
17 produce a less inclusive copy.

18 6. Hard-Copy Documents. Hard-copy documents will be scanned using Optical  
19 Character Recognition technology and searchable ASCII text files will be produced (or Unicode  
20 text format if the text is in a foreign language), unless it will not result in accurate or reasonably  
21 useable/searchable ESI, like handwritten documents. Each file will be named with a unique  
22 Bates Number (*e.g.*, the unique Bates Number of the first page of the corresponding production  
23 version of the document followed by its file extension). These documents will be unitized



1 following scanning into appropriate segments and custodial information will be provided in the  
2 load files.

3 **D. Preservation of ESI**

4 The Parties acknowledge that they have a common law obligation, as expressed in Fed.  
5 R. Civ. P. 37(e), to take reasonable and proportional steps to preserve discoverable information  
6 in the party's possession, custody, or control. With respect to preservation of ESI, the Parties  
7 agree as follows:

8 1. Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the Parties shall not be  
9 required to modify the procedures used by them in the ordinary course of business to back-up and  
10 archive data; provided, however, that the Parties shall take reasonable and proportional steps to  
11 preserve all discoverable ESI in their possession, custody, or control.

12 2. The Parties agree that only unique, non-duplicative sources of discoverable  
13 Documents need to be preserved.

14 3. Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the categories of ESI that  
15 need not be preserved include, but are not limited to:

- 16 a. Deleted, slack, fragmented, or other data only accessible by forensics.
- 17 b. Random access memory (RAM), temporary files, or other ephemeral data  
18 that are difficult to preserve without disabling the operating system.
- 19 c. On-line access data such as temporary internet files, history, cache,  
20 cookies, and the like.
- 21 d. Data in metadata fields that are frequently updated automatically, such as  
22 last-opened dates (see also Section (E)(5)).
- 23 e. Interim automatically saved drafts that cannot be preserved through  
24 reasonable means.
- f. Back-up data that are duplicative of data that are more accessible  
elsewhere.

- g. Server, system or network logs.
- h. Data remaining from systems no longer in use that is unintelligible on the systems in use.
- i. Electronic data (*e.g.*, email, calendars, contact data, and notes) sent to or from mobile devices (*e.g.*, iPhone, iPad, Android devices), provided that a copy of all such electronic data is automatically saved in real time elsewhere (such as on a server, laptop, desktop computer, or “cloud” storage).

#### **E. Privilege**

1. A producing Party shall create a privilege log of all responsive documents or ESI wholly redacted or fully withheld from production on the basis of a privilege or protection, unless otherwise agreed or excepted.

2. For documents redacted for privilege or protection, the Parties must produce a privilege log containing only the following information: the Bates number; an indication that the document was produced in redacted form, information that can be populated from the metadata of the document in accordance with Appendix A, Section D, of this Order; an indication where such metadata corresponds to the attorney(s) involved (*e.g.*, \*, *esq.*); and the type of privilege being asserted (*e.g.*, attorney client; work product). If the privilege log entry for any document redacted on the basis of attorney-client privilege or work product protection does not identify the attorney(s) involved, the Parties reserve their rights to request that information from the producing Party. The Parties agree to produce such information upon reasonable request to the extent it exists and can be determined after a reasonable inquiry. If an email is produced with redactions, the redactions must not obscure the headers (*e.g.*, from, to, cc, bcc, subject, sent date and time, attachment file names) of the email or any embedded emails, unless the subject line contains information that is privileged or protected. If a non-email document is produced with redactions, the redactions must not obscure the equivalent of

1 header information (including author, from, to, subject, sent date and time, attachment names, as  
2 applicable) unless the subject line contains information that is privileged or protected.

3       3.       Privilege logs for documents fully withheld from production or otherwise fully  
4 redacted shall include a unique identification number for each document, indicate the Bates  
5 number of the document containing privileged material and those of any document family  
6 relationships, and state the claim asserted. Privilege logs shall be produced in Excel (.xls, .xlsx,  
7 or .xlsb) format unless not possible due to technical reasons such as the size of the privilege log,  
8 in which case the Parties agree to meet and confer to reach agreement on an alternative method  
9 of production or file format. For ESI, privilege log entries shall include metadata in accordance  
10 with Appendix A, Section D, of this agreement including author/recipient or to/from/cc/bcc  
11 names; the subject matter or title; and date created. The producing Party shall include additional  
12 information necessary for evaluating the privilege claim asserted as required by the Federal  
13 Rules of Civil Procedure, including any of the above fields not available in metadata, the title of  
14 all Party employees associated with a log entry, identification of all attorneys associated with  
15 the log entry, and a description of the contents of the document sufficient to establish that the  
16 privilege or protection applies.

17       4.       Where email threads are withheld from production on the basis of a privilege or  
18 protection, notwithstanding Paragraph C(5), the producing party shall produce any lesser  
19 inclusive copies of the email thread over which it does not claim the privilege or protection. The  
20 producing party must provide privilege log information for the unique most inclusive copy and  
21 related family members pursuant to Paragraph E(3). For lesser inclusive copies and related  
22 family members, the producing party may produce only the following privilege log information:  
23 the Bates number of the document containing privileged material and those of any document  
24

1 family relationships; the Bates number of the associated unique most inclusive copy;  
2 information that can be populated from the metadata of the document in accordance with  
3 Appendix A, Section D, of this agreement; the type of privilege being asserted; an indication  
4 where such metadata corresponds to the attorney(s) involved (e.g., \*, esq.); and the basis for the  
5 privilege. If the privilege log entry for any document redacted on the basis of attorney-client  
6 privilege or work product protection does not identify the attorney(s) involved, the Parties  
7 reserve their rights to request that information from the producing Party. The Parties agree to  
8 produce such information upon reasonable request to the extent it exists and can be determined  
9 after a reasonable inquiry. This paragraph does not apply where an email thread is redacted  
10 rather than withheld from production, and the producing party does not have to produce  
11 redacted email threads on an unthreaded basis.

12         5.       A producing Party shall provide a rolling privilege log at least six, nine, twelve,  
13 and fifteen months after the commencement of fact discovery. A producing Party must provide  
14 a final privilege log no later than 30 days prior to the close of fact discovery. All times provided  
15 herein may be changed by agreement of all Parties.

16         6.       Privilege logs produced during the Federal Trade Commission's investigation  
17 preceding this litigation may be used to challenge any assertion of privilege of any documents  
18 produced in the investigation and subsequently produced in this litigation. The fact that  
19 Plaintiffs did not challenge a privilege claim during the investigation shall not be used as the  
20 basis of a waiver or forfeiture argument.

21         7.       The Parties agree that the following privileged or otherwise protected  
22 communications need not be placed on a privilege log: Email, notes, drafts, communications,  
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memoranda, documents, or other work product produced by or exchanged solely among and between:

- a. Outside counsel for Amazon;
- b. Outside counsel for Amazon and In-House Counsel (as that term is defined in the Protective Order in this action) employed by Amazon;
- c. Counsel for the Federal Trade Commission, persons employed by or contracted with the Federal Trade Commission, or Commissioners;
- d. Counsel for each Plaintiff State, persons employed by or contracted with that State's Office of the Attorney General, or that State's Attorney General;
- e. Counsel for the Federal Trade Commission, persons employed by or contracted with the Federal Trade Commission, or Commissioners, and outside counsel, counsel, and employees for a plaintiff or other State with which the FTC shares a common legal interest related to this litigation, or the investigation that preceded this litigation;
- f. Counsel for each Plaintiff State, persons employed by or contracted with that State's Office of the Attorney General, or that State's Attorney General, and outside counsel, counsel, and employees of a plaintiff or other State with which that Plaintiff State shares a common legal interest related to this litigation, or the investigation that preceded this litigation;

8. The Parties agree that the following privileged or otherwise protected communications need not be placed on a privilege log: draft litigation filings and communications attaching draft litigation filings that only discuss such draft litigation filings.

1           9. Pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents, electronically  
2 stored information (ESI) or information, whether inadvertent or otherwise, in this proceeding  
3 shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute  
4 a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the  
5 attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection  
6 recognized by law. This Order shall be interpreted to provide the maximum protection allowed  
7 by Fed. R. Evid. 502(d). The provisions of Fed. R. Evid. 502(b) do not apply.

8           10. If a producing Party determines that it has produced documents or ESI upon  
9 which it wishes to make a claim of privilege, it shall, within 15 days of making such  
10 determination, give all counsel of record notice of the claim of privilege. The notice must  
11 identify each such document, unless the review requires additional time, in which case the  
12 producing Party shall notify counsel of record and shall provide a date by which it will provide  
13 the identification. If the producing Party claims that only a portion of a document is privileged,  
14 the producing Party shall provide, together with the notice of the claim of privilege, a new copy  
15 of the document with the allegedly privileged portions redacted. All times provided herein may  
16 be changed by agreement of all Parties, and the Parties agree that failure to comply with the  
17 times provided herein alone shall not result in the waiver of any privilege or protection.

18           11. Upon receiving notice of a claim of privilege on a produced document, the  
19 notified Party, in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B), shall promptly  
20 sequester the specified information and any copies it has and shall not use or disclose the  
21 information until the claim is resolved. Copies of privileged documents or information that have  
22 been stored on electronic media that is not reasonably accessible, such as disaster recovery  
23 backup media, are adequately sequestered as long as they are not restored. If the notified Party  
24

1 disclosed the information before receiving notification of the privilege claim of the producing  
2 Party, it shall take reasonable steps to prevent further use of such information until the claim is  
3 resolved.

4 12. If a Party wishes to dispute a claim of privilege on a produced document asserted  
5 under this Order, such Party shall promptly meet and confer with the producing Party. If the  
6 Parties reach an impasse, the non-producing Party may move the Court for an order compelling  
7 disclosure of the information. The Parties shall follow the procedures described in Federal Rule  
8 26(b)(5)(B). Pending resolution of the motion, the Parties shall not use the challenged  
9 information for any other purpose and shall not disclose it to any person other than those  
10 required by law to be served with a copy of the sealed motion.

11 13. The Parties will use best efforts to provide the titles of Party employees and  
12 outside counsel in a name index provided by each producing Party with each privilege log  
13 production, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties. The name index shall be produced in  
14 Excel (.xls, .xlsx, or .xlsb) format unless an alternative format is agreed to by the Parties, and  
15 shall include an alphabetical list (by last name) of each name on the privilege log, identifying  
16 titles, company affiliations, the members of any group or email list on the log where practicable  
17 (e.g., the S-Team), and any name variations used in the privilege log used for the same  
18 individual. All attorneys acting in a legal capacity with respect to that particular document or  
19 communication will be marked with an asterisk or other designation agreed to by the Parties.

20 14. The producing party wishing to assert a claim of privilege retains the burden of  
21 establishing the applicability of the claimed privilege.

22 15. This Order does not preclude a party or non-party from voluntarily waiving any  
23 claims of privilege.

1           16.     Privilege logs provided prior to November 9, 2023 that were not produced in the  
2 first instance in this litigation, such as privilege logs that were previously provided in Plaintiffs'  
3 investigation or other matters involving Amazon, shall be produced pursuant to the privilege log  
4 protocols or agreements in those other matters. The parties reserve their rights to request more  
5 information for entries on those privilege logs, and to challenge any privilege claims asserted in  
6 those privilege logs.

7 **F.     Non-Party Discovery**

8           1.     A party that issues a non-party subpoena (the "Issuing Party") shall include a copy  
9 of this ESI Protocol with the subpoena.

10          2.     The Issuing Party shall be responsible for producing any documents obtained under  
11 a subpoena to all other parties within 10 days. The Issuing Party shall not be responsible for the  
12 format of such production and shall produce the documents in the same format that they were  
13 produced by the non-party.

14          3.     If the non-party production is not Bates-stamped, the Issuing Party shall endorse  
15 the non-party production with unique prefixes and Bates numbers prior to producing them to all  
16 other parties.

17 **G.     Compliance**

18          1.     A Party alleging that another Party has failed to comply with this Order may file a  
19 motion with the Court. Any such motion shall include a meet and confer certification by the  
20 moving Party pursuant to Local Civil Rule 37(a)(1).

21          2.     The deadlines in this Order can be altered by agreement of all Parties without filing  
22 a motion with the Court. If any Party makes a reasonable request to alter a deadline, the other  
23 Parties shall consider the request in good faith.



**ORDER**

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
THE HONORABLE JOHN H. CHUN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

*Presented by:*

s/ Christine M. Kennedy

SUSAN A. MUSSER (DC Bar # 1531486)  
EDWARD H. TAKASHIMA (DC Bar # 1001641)  
EMILY K. BOLLES (NY Reg. # 5408703)  
EMMA DICK (IA Bar # 51155)  
CHRISTINE M. KENNEDY (DC Bar # 1032904)  
DANIELLE C. QUINN (NY Reg. # 5408943)  
ERIC ZEPP (NY Reg. #5538491)  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20580  
Tel.: (202) 326-2122 (Musser)  
(202) 326-2464 (Takashima)  
Email: smusser@ftc.gov  
etakashima@ftc.gov  
ebolles@ftc.gov  
edick@ftc.gov  
ckennedy@ftc.gov  
dquinn@ftc.gov  
ezepp@ftc.gov

*Attorneys for Plaintiff Federal Trade  
Commission*

s/ Michael Jo

Michael Jo (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
 Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Bureau  
 New York State Office of the Attorney  
 General  
 28 Liberty Street  
 New York, NY 10005  
 Telephone: (212) 416-6537  
 Email: Michael.Jo@ag.ny.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of New York*

s/ Rahul A. Darwar

Rahul A. Darwar (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
 Assistant Attorney General  
 Office of the Attorney General of Connecticut  
 165 Capitol Avenue  
 Hartford, CT 06016  
 Telephone: (860) 808-5030  
 Email: Rahul.Darwar@ct.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Connecticut*

s/ Alexandra C. Sosnowski

Alexandra C. Sosnowski (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
 Assistant Attorney General  
 Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau  
 New Hampshire Department of Justice  
 Office of the Attorney General  
 One Granite Place South  
 Concord, NH 03301  
 Telephone: (603) 271-2678  
 Email: Alexandra.c.sosnowski@doj.nh.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of New Hampshire*

s/ Caleb J. Smith

Caleb J. Smith (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
 Assistant Attorney General  
 Consumer Protection Unit  
 Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General  
 15 West 6th Street, Suite 1000  
 Tulsa, OK 74119  
 Telephone: (918) 581-2230  
 Email: caleb.smith@oag.ok.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Oklahoma*

s/ Jennifer A. Thomson

Jennifer A. Thomson (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
 Senior Deputy Attorney General  
 Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General  
 Strawberry Square, 14th Floor  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120  
 Telephone: (717) 787-4530  
 Email: jthomson@attorneygeneral.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

s/ Michael A. Undorf

Michael A. Undorf (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
 Deputy Attorney General  
 Delaware Department of Justice  
 820 N. French St., 5th Floor  
 Wilmington, DE 19801  
 Telephone: (302) 683-8816  
 Email: michael.undorf@delaware.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Delaware*

s/ Christina M. Moylan

Christina M. Moylan (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
 Assistant Attorney General  
 Chief, Consumer Protection Division  
 Office of the Maine Attorney General  
 6 State House Station  
 Augusta, ME 04333-0006  
 Telephone: (207) 626-8800  
 Email: christina.moylan@maine.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Maine*

s/ Gary Honick

Gary Honick (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
 Assistant Attorney General  
 Deputy Chief, Antitrust Division  
 Office of the Maryland Attorney General  
 200 St. Paul Place  
 Baltimore, MD 21202  
 Telephone: (410) 576-6474  
 Email: Ghonick@oag.state.md.us  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Maryland*

s/ Michael Mackenzie

Michael Mackenzie (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Deputy Chief, Antitrust Division  
Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General  
One Ashburton Place, 18th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108  
Telephone: (617) 963-2369  
Email: michael.mackenzie@mass.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

s/ Scott A. Mertens

Scott A. Mertens (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Assistant Attorney General  
Michigan Department of Attorney General  
525 West Ottawa Street  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Telephone: (517) 335-7622  
Email: MertensS@michigan.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Michigan*

s/ Zach Biesanz

Zach Biesanz (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Senior Enforcement Counsel  
Office of the Minnesota Attorney General  
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55101  
Telephone: (651) 757-1257  
Email: zach.biesanz@ag.state.mn.us  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Minnesota*

s/ Lucas J. Tucker

Lucas J. Tucker (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Senior Deputy Attorney General  
Office of the Nevada Attorney General  
100 N. Carson St.  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Telephone: (775) 684-1100  
Email: LTucker@ag.nv.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Nevada*

s/ Ana Atta-Alla

Ana Atta-Alla (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Deputy Attorney General  
New Jersey Office of the Attorney General  
124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07101  
Telephone: (973) 648-3070  
Email: Ana.Atta-Alla@law.njoag.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of New Jersey*

s/ Jeffrey Herrera

Jeffrey Herrera (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Assistant Attorney General  
New Mexico Office of the Attorney General  
408 Galisteo St.  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
Telephone: (505) 490-4878  
Email: jherrera@nmag.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of New Mexico*

s/ Timothy D. Smith

Timothy D. Smith, WSBA No. 44583  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust and False Claims Unit  
Oregon Department of Justice  
100 SW Market St  
Portland, OR 97201  
Telephone: (503) 934-4400  
Email: tim.smith@doj.state.or.us  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Oregon*

s/ Zulma Carrasquillo-Almena

Zulma Carrasquillo (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
Puerto Rico Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 9020192  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901-0192  
Telephone: (787) 721-2900  
Email: zcarrasquillo@justicia.pr.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff Commonwealth of Puerto Rico*

1 s/ Stephen N. Provazza

Stephen N. Provazza (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
2 Special Assistant Attorney General  
Chief, Consumer and Economic Justice Unit  
3 Department of the Attorney General  
150 South Main Street  
4 Providence, RI 02903  
Telephone: (401) 274-4400  
5 Email: sprovazza@riag.ri.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Rhode Island*

6 s/ Sarah L. J. Aceves

7 Sara L. J. Aceves (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)  
Assistant Attorney General  
8 Vermont Attorney General's Office  
109 State Street  
9 Montpelier, VT 05609  
Telephone: (802) 828-3170  
10 Email: sarah.aceves@vermont.gov  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Vermont*

11 s/ Gwendolyn J. Cooley

12 Gwendolyn J. Cooley (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Assistant Attorney General  
13 Wisconsin Department of Justice  
Post Office Box 7857  
14 Madison, WI 53707-7857  
Telephone: (608) 261-5810  
15 Email: cooleygj@doj.state.wi.us  
*Counsel for Plaintiff State of Wisconsin*

## **APPENDIX A**

### **PRODUCTION FORMAT PROTOCOL**

#### **A. Production Components.**

1. A directory containing images of every page of every document in the production, Bates-numbered sequentially.
2. A directory containing native files for a subset of the documents, each file named with the Bates number of the first page of the document it represents and the confidentiality designation being used, with no additional text beyond this, and with the same extension as the original native file type of the document.
3. A directory containing OCR or Extracted Text files, one file per document, each file named with the Bates number of the first page of the document it represents with no additional text beyond this, followed by “.txt” suffix.
4. A Load File containing Bates ranges and Metadata for each document.

#### **B. Production Format.**

All documents shall be produced in the following formats when reasonably feasible:

1. Electronic Production of Paper Documents. Documents that are maintained in paper format shall be scanned as document level PDF files or black and white images at 300 x 300 dots per inch (DPI) or greater resolution, in single-page Group IV TIFF format, and shall reflect the full and complete information contained in the original document. Hard copy documents shall be produced with associated OCR files at the same time that the PDF or TIFF files are produced and with a Load File that includes at least the following Metadata fields: Begin Bates; End Bates; Begin Family; End Family; Pages; TextPath; Placeholder; File Extension; Custodian; All Custodians; Confidentiality; and Redacted, as those fields are described in Section IV, below. When subjecting physical documents to an OCR process, the settings of the OCR software shall maximize text quality over process speed. Any settings such as “auto-skewing” or “auto-rotation,” should be turned on when documents are run through the process. Paper documents that contain fixed notes shall be scanned with the notes affixed, if it can be done so in a manner so as not to obstruct other content on the document. If the content of the document is obscured by the affixed notes, the document and notes shall be scanned separately.
2. Production of Electronically Stored Information (ESI). Unless otherwise specified, document images shall be generated from electronic documents in a set of document level PDF or single page Group IV TIFF images that reflect the full and complete information contained on the original document. In the event a document is redacted, the producing party shall withhold the redacted text for that document. The failure to withhold such text for a redacted document by a producing party shall not be deemed a waiver of the privilege associated with that document.

3. File Structure. The producing party shall produce the following sets of files with each production.
  - a. Load File.
    - (1) Each production has one load file, in “Concordance” style .DAT format.
    - (2) Values must be enclosed by þ (ASCII Decimal 254).
    - (3) Values must be separated by the “Device Control 4” character, ASCII decimal 20.
    - (4) First line must contain the column/field names (set forth in Section IV, below).
    - (5) The fields Begin Bates and End Bates must be present, and the first fields listed in the load file.
    - (6) The field NativePath must be present if native files are included in the document production.
    - (7) Each subsequent row must contain the Metadata for one document.
    - (8) Every row must have the same number of columns/fields (empty values are acceptable).
    - (9) Text must be encoded in UTF-8.
    - (10) File should be placed in the root directory or a directory labeled “DATA.”
  - b. OCR and Extracted Text Files (.TXT Files).
    - (1) A single text file for each document containing all the document’s pages, in text.
    - (2) Pages separated by form feed character (decimal 12, hex 0xC).
    - (3) Filenames should be of the form: <Bates num>.txt, where <Batesnum> is the Bates number of the first page of the document.
    - (4) Text must be encoded in UTF-8.
    - (5) Files should be placed in a directory labeled “TEXT.”
  - c. Image Files.
    - (1) Document level PDF or Single-page Group IV TIFF images for each document, containing all images for that document.
    - (2) Filenames should be of the form: <Bates num>.<ext>, where <Bates num> is the BATES number of the first page of the document (i.e., the “Begin Bates” number), and <ext> is the appropriate extension for the image format (.pdf or .tiff).
    - (3) Files should be placed in the “IMAGES” subdirectory.
4. Illegible Documents. If a produced document cannot be read because of apparent imaging or formatting problems or other issues relating to the collection or production of documents, the receiving party may request a re-production from the producing party. The parties shall meet and confer to discuss the nature of the issues and any obstacles to re-production.
5. Native Format Documents. The parties recognize that it may be appropriate for certain documents to be produced in native format, such as spreadsheets, engineering drawings,

presentations or slides, and audio and video files. In all cases, unless there is no textual content, an OCR or Extracted Text file shall be produced along with the native file. The receiving party may request that the producing party produce additional file types of electronic documents in native format where the converted image format distorts or causes the information to be improperly displayed, or for which there is no visual representation, such as audio files. Prior to producing any confidential information as defined in any applicable Protective Order entered herein in native format, the producing party and the receiving party shall meet and confer to establish additional procedures, to the extent necessary, for the protection of information contained in native files.

- a. Excel and Access Databases. To the extent that responsive documents exist in Excel or another database program, documents shall be produced in native format unless the document needs to be redacted. To the extent that the document format constitutes a database created or maintained in Access or another software program, documents shall be produced in their native format, where reasonably feasible. If a database is based upon proprietary software, the parties shall meet and confer regarding the format of production, which shall be a reasonably feasible format, to enable review by the receiving party. An image placeholder shall be provided for each document produced in native format. Each placeholder shall contain the phrase “DOCUMENT PRODUCED IN NATIVE FORMAT,” or something similar, and shall contain the Bates number corresponding to the native file.
- b. PowerPoint Presentations (PPT). PPT presentations should be produced in native format (*e.g.*, as .PPT files). PPT presentations shall also be produced in full document PDF or single-page TIFF format, along with speaker notes. The linked native file name should also match the Begin Bates field with the appropriate file extension. Any hidden slides or speakers notes should be included in PPT presentations.
- c. Audio and Video Data. Parties should make best efforts to ensure care is taken for collection and production of any responsive audio and/or video data, and to preserve any Metadata that may be associated with those items. These data types may be stored in audio or video recordings, voicemail text messaging, and related/similar technologies.
- d. Word Documents (or similar). Microsoft Word documents (.DOC, .DOCX, or substantially similar non-Microsoft file formats) should be produced in full document PDF or single-page TIFF format for each document, containing all images for that document, and should be imaged in a manner that captures tracked changes and comments. To the extent a receiving party believes the converted image format distorts, omits, or causes information to be improperly displayed, the receiving party may request the document in native format and the producing party shall meet and confer to attempt to resolve the problem(s).
- e. To the extent the producing party produces a document in native format, the



following specifications apply:

- (1) Filenames must be unique in the production, unless the content is identical. Files should be named for the starting Bates number of the associated document.
  - (2) The filename must retain the file extension corresponding to the original native format (*e.g.*, an Excel 2003 spreadsheet's extension must be .xls).
6. Color. A party that received a production may make reasonable requests that color images be produced for particular documents where color provides significant benefit to interpret the contents of the relevant documents. The production of documents/or ESI in color shall be made in single-page JPEG format (300 DPI). All requirements for productions stated in this ESI Agreement regarding productions in TIFF format apply to any productions of documents and/or ESI in color made in such an alternative format. Reasonable requests that a document be produced in color for the reasons set for in this Paragraph will not be unreasonably denied by the producing party. If a producing party wishes to object, it may do so by responding in writing and setting for its objection(s) to the production of the requested document in color.
7. Production Media. A producing party may produce documents electronically (via secure FTP, for example), or on an external hard drive, DVD, CD-ROM, or such other readily accessible computer or electronic media as the producing party and the receiving party may hereafter agree upon (the "Production Media"). Production Media should be labeled on its face with the production date, the production volume, the Bates range contained on the Production Media, and any confidentiality notation that may be required by the Protective Order entered in this case. Where not practicable to label Production Media on its face, a letter or email with the required information should be provided. If the producing party encrypts or "locks" the production, the producing party shall include, under separate cover, instructions regarding how to decrypt the files, and any necessary passwords.
8. Document Unitization. When scanning paper documents into document images as described in Section III.C.1., they shall be unitized in a manner so as to maintain the document(s) and any attachments as they existed in their original state, as reasonably feasible. Any applicable folder structure information should also be provided. Responsive attachments to e-mails stored shall be produced contemporaneously and sequentially immediately after the parent e-mail.
9. Duplicates. A producing party who has more than one identical copy of an electronic document (*i.e.*, the documents are actual duplicates) need only produce a single copy of that document. For avoidance of doubt, a producing party may de-duplicate actual duplicate documents across custodians, but all custodians should be identified in the All Custodians field.
10. Bates Numbering. Each producing party shall Bates number its production(s) as follows:



- a. Each Bates number should consist of a unique identifier consisting of a prefix, followed by nine numbers (*e.g.*, ABC000000001). The prefix should be substantially similar for all pages produced by the same producing party throughout this litigation. Each page of a document must have its own Bates number, and Bates numbers should be sequential.
  - b. Document Images. Each page of a produced document shall have a legible, unique page identifier (Bates number) electronically “burned” onto the image at a location that does not unreasonably obliterate, conceal, or interfere with any information from the source document. No other legend or stamp should be placed on the document other than a confidentiality designation (where applicable), a privilege designation, or a redaction notification (where applicable). For confidential documents the confidentiality designation shall be “burned” onto each document’s image at a location that does not unreasonably obliterate or obscure any information from the source document.
  - c. Native Format Documents. In order to preserve the integrity of any native format documents that will be produced, no Bates number, confidentiality legend or redaction information should be added to the content of the native format document. Each native should have an individual Bates number assigned.
11. Linked Files and Collaborative Work Environments. Producing parties will make reasonable efforts to identify hyperlinks to internal document repositories that are contained in responsive, non-privileged emails. The Parties’ “internal document repositories” will consist of those agreed to by the Parties and memorialized in Plaintiffs’ letter dated March 26, 2024. *See* Letter from E. Bolles to C. Forkner (Mar. 26, 2024). The Parties may meet and confer, as needed, regarding the identification of additional internal document repositories, including after the entry of this Order. A producing party will provide a metadata overlay with its productions listing the hyperlinks found in each produced email. Upon a request from a receiving party, the producing party shall make reasonable efforts to retrieve the underlying documents for a reasonable number of specifically identified hyperlinks. In general, an attempt to programmatically retrieve the underlying documents based on the hyperlinks will constitute a reasonable effort. However, for particular documents, parties may request further efforts for good cause on a document-by-document basis. The producing party shall produce such underlying documents, with metadata connecting the underlying linked document to the hyperlink. But the parties acknowledge that links may be broken or otherwise unavailable. Moreover, the document retrieved may be the version that existed at the time of collection and not necessarily the version that existed at the time of the email containing the hyperlink. A producing party makes no representation that the recipient(s) of a hyperlink ever actually opened or viewed the hyperlinked document. If a producing party identifies significant new internal document repositories or if a producing party’s capabilities to identify hyperlinks or retrieve hyperlinked files materially changes with respect to already-identified internal document repositories during the course of the litigation, the producing party shall disclose those changes to the requesting party, and the parties will meet and confer further accordingly.

**C. Metadata**

For scanned hard copy documents, the producing party will provide the Metadata fields below:

<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FIELD DESCRIPTION</b>
Begin Bates	The production Bates number associated with the first page of a document.
End Bates	The production Bates number associated with the last page of a document.
BeginFamily	Begin Bates number of first page of the parent Document of family of documents.
EndFamily	End Bates number of the last page of last attachment to a family of documents.
Pages	Total number of pages in the document.
TextPath	Link to text file for the document.
Placeholder	Whether a document has a placeholder image.
File Extension	The extension of the file.
Custodian	Identification of custodian(s) from whom the file was sourced.
All Custodians	Identification of all custodians of the document.
Confidentiality	Confidentiality designation assigned to the document.
Redacted	Whether a Document has redactions (Y/N).
Production Volume	Production volume number ( <i>e.g.</i> , VOL001, VOL002, etc.).
Producing Party	Name of party producing the document.

For ESI and documents that were originally stored in electronic format, all fields below should be provided if required information is available. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the field-naming conventions shall be as stated below, and shall be consistently applied across all productions:

<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FIELD DESCRIPTION</b>
Begin Bates	The production Bates number associated with the first page of a document.
End Bates	The production Bates number associated with the last page of a document.
BeginFamily	Begin Bates number of first page of the parent document of family of attachments.
EndFamily	End Bates number of the last page of last attachment to a family of documents.
AttachCount	Number of document attachments.



<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FIELD DESCRIPTION</b>
AttachNames	Native file names of each individual attachment, separated by semicolons.
Custodian	Identification of the custodian(s) from whom the file was sourced.
All Custodians	Identification of all custodians who the producing party agreed to produce and where a duplicate of the document was de-duplicated when processing the documents.
File Path	The file path from which the document was collected.
All Paths	Identification of all file paths for duplicate copies.
Author	Author field extracted from the Metadata of a document or other creator identified for the document
From	From field extracted from the Metadata of an email message.
To	To field extracted from the Metadata of an email message.
Cc	Cc field extracted from the Metadata of an email message.
Bcc	Bcc field extracted from the Metadata of an email message.
Pages	Total number of pages in the document.
Date Received	Datetime received (MM/DD/YYYY HH/MM/SS).
Date Sent	Datetime sent (MM/DD/YYYY HH/MM/SS).
Date Created	Datetime created (MM/DD/YYYY HH/MM/SS).
Date Modified	Datetime that a Document was last modified (MM/DD/YYYY HH/MM/SS).
Last Modified By	Identification of person(s) who last modified a document.
Message Id	Unique Message Id.
In Reply To	Message ID of email that instant email is in reply to.
Title	Title field value extracted from the Metadata of the Native File.
Subject	Subject line extracted from an email, e-document or e-attachment.
Filename	The full name of the Native File.
File Extension	The extension of the file.
File Size	The size of the file in bytes.
MD5 Hash	The MD5 hash value of a document.
Document Type	Document type.
Application	Name of the application used to open the file.
NativePath	The relative path to the native file for this document.
TextPath	The relative path to the text file for this document.
Redacted	Whether a document has redactions (Y/N).
Placeholder	Whether a document has a placeholder image.
Confidentiality	Level of confidentiality assigned.
Track Changes	Document has track changes (Y/N).

<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FIELD DESCRIPTION</b>
Hidden Content	Identifies documents with hidden content ( <i>i.e.</i> , hidden rows, columns, sheets, or slides).
Speaker Notes	Document has speaker notes (Y/N).
Has Comments	Indicates there are comments in the document.
Production Volume	Production volume number ( <i>e.g.</i> , V001, V002, etc.).
Producing Party	Name of party producing the document.

The parties are not obligated to populate manually any of the fields identified above for either hard copy documents or ESI if such fields cannot be extracted from a document, with the exception of the following for each of hard copy documents and ESI: (a) Begin Bates, (b) End Bates, (c) BeginFamily (d) EndFamily, (e) Custodian, (f) All Custodians, (g) Confidentiality, (h) Redactions, (i) NativePath (for ESI), (k) TextPath, and any known Date information (Date Received, Date Sent, Date Created, and/or Date Modified).

#### **D. Metadata for Privilege Logs**

For scanned hard copy documents, the producing party will provide the Metadata fields below:

<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FIELD DESCRIPTION</b>
Begin Bates	The production Bates number associated with the first page of a document.
End Bates	The production Bates number associated with the last page of a document.
BeginFamily	Begin Bates number of first page of the parent Document of family of documents.
EndFamily	End Bates number of the last page of last attachment to a family of documents.
Pages	Total number of pages in the document.
TextPath	Link to text file for the document.
Placeholder	Whether a document has a placeholder image.
File Extension	The extension of the file.
Custodian	Identification of custodian(s) from whom the file was sourced.
All Custodians	Identification of all custodians of the document.
Confidentiality	Confidentiality designation assigned to the document.
Redacted	Whether a Document has redactions (Y/N).

For ESI and documents that were originally stored in electronic format, all fields below should be provided if required information is available. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the



field-naming conventions shall be as stated below, and shall be consistently applied across all productions:

<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FIELD DESCRIPTION</b>
Begin Bates	The production Bates number associated with the first page of a document.
End Bates	The production Bates number associated with the last page of a document.
BeginFamily	Begin Bates number of first page of the parent document of family of attachments.
EndFamily	End Bates number of the last page of last attachment to a family of documents.
AttachCount	Number of document attachments.
AttachNames	Native file names of each individual attachment, separated by semicolons.
Custodian	Identification of the custodian(s) from whom the file was sourced.
All Custodians	Identification of all custodians who the producing party agreed to produce and where a duplicate of the document was de-duplicated when processing the documents.
File Path	The file path from which the document was collected.
All Paths	Identification of all file paths for duplicate copies.
Author	Author field extracted from the Metadata of a document or other creator identified for the document
From	From field extracted from the Metadata of an email message.
To	To field extracted from the Metadata of an email message.
Cc	Cc field extracted from the Metadata of an email message.
Bcc	Bcc field extracted from the Metadata of an email message.
Pages	Total number of pages in the document.
Date Received	Datetime received (MM/DD/YYYY HH/MM/SS).
Date Sent	Datetime sent (MM/DD/YYYY HH/MM/SS).
Date Created	Datetime created (MM/DD/YYYY HH/MM/SS).
Date Modified	Datetime that a Document was last modified (MM/DD/YYYY HH/MM/SS).
Last Modified By	Identification of person(s) who last modified a document.
Message Id	Unique Message Id.
Title	Title field value extracted from the Metadata of the Native File.
Subject	Subject line extracted from an email, e-document or e-attachment.
Filename	The full name of the Native File.
File Extension	The extension of the file.

<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FIELD DESCRIPTION</b>
Document Type	Document type.
Application	Name of the application used to open the file.
Redacted	Whether a document has redactions (Y/N).
Placeholder	Whether a document has a placeholder image.
Confidentiality	Level of confidentiality assigned.